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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

2-02-A-0404

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Suspension of Paul Markgraf as Police President of Berlin; Russian Opposition

DATE DISTR. 27 July 1948

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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1. After the Berlin representatives of the Western Powers indicated that they would not take the initiative in the Berlin crisis, representatives of the democratic parties, the Magistrat, and the Western Sector police held a series of meetings between 22 and 23 July 1948, which resulted in a decision to attempt the legal removal of Police President Markgraf. This decision was difficult since the democratic politicians anticipated a strong Russian reaction and a probable open split between the eastern and western parties of Berlin. Acting Lord Mayor Frau Schröder was finally convinced at the late Sunday night meeting of 25 July with Friedensburg and Stadtrat Ernest Reuter that an open split is preferable to the fiction of unity through which the Soviets were continually gaining by the gradual inroad on the privileges of the legal city administration.
2. Accordingly, at the press conference of 26 July, Friedensburg announced the suspension of Markgraf and appointed Sturm to assume the Police Presidency in his capacity of Vice President. Cause for the suspension was Markgraf's "anti-social, anti-democratic, and anti-German attitude coupled with a total lack of discipline." Friedensburg also announced the institution of criminal proceedings against Markgraf and the Soviet Sector Chief of Police Seidel.
3. The three western military governments, notified but not consulted on the above step, immediately approved suspension of Markgraf. The Soviet liaison officer stated that Friedensburg and the Magistrat far exceeded their legal authority.
4. In the late evening hours of 26 July General Kotikov sent a letter to Frau Schröder instructing her to transmit to the Police President an order to:
 - a. Dismiss Dr. Sturm from police service because of his conspiratorial activities to undermine the unity of the Berlin police.

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- b. Conduct an investigation and dismiss all suspected of being enemies of unity.
- c. Warn members of the Magistrat, especially Friedensburg, that their activities to undermine unity cannot be tolerated—signed Kotikov, "Military Commandant of the City of Berlin".

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~~Comment:~~ The above will greatly contribute to a termination of the fiction of a united Berlin. Kotikov's designation "Military Commandant of Berlin" was used for the first time.)

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